

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-14 (cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A component mounting ~~apparatus~~ assembly including component mounting apparatuses positioned along a board transfer path, each of said component mounting apparatuses comprising:

first and second component supply tables for accommodating ~~a first plurality of~~ components, said first and second component supply tables being arranged adjacent to and on both sides of ~~a the~~ board transfer path, respectively, each of said first and second component supply tables being supported on casters so as to be movable ~~between support frames~~ toward and away from a respective side of ~~a board mounting position~~ the board transfer path;

a first mounting head section movable in first and second orthogonal directions for successively picking up components at said first component supply table, thereafter moving to a board positioned at ~~the a~~ board mounting position, and successively mounting the picked-up components onto the board ~~while moving in first and second directions which are perpendicular to each other~~; and

a second mounting head section movable in third and fourth orthogonal directions for successively picking up components at said second component supply table, thereafter moving to the board positioned at the board mounting position, and successively mounting the picked-up components onto the board ~~while moving in third and fourth directions which are perpendicular to each other~~,

wherein the first direction and the second direction define a plane that is parallel with the board transfer path, with the first direction being perpendicular to the board transfer path, and

wherein the third direction and the fourth direction define a plane that is parallel with the board transfer path, with the third direction being perpendicular to the board transfer path, the first and third directions being parallel with one another, and the second and fourth directions being parallel with one another; and

wherein all of the first component supply tables of said component mounting apparatuses are positioned on one side of the board transfer path, and all of the second component supply tables of said component mounting apparatuses are positioned on the other side of the board transfer path.

16. (Previously presented) The component mounting apparatus according to claim 15, wherein each of said first and second component supply tables is selected from one of:

a component supply table provided with component supply means comprised of parts cassettes provided with reels;

a component supply table provided with stick-shaped component supply means at which components stored in a pipe member are successively fed to a take-out position;

a component supply table on which bulk components are placed; and

a tray-shaped component supply table.

17. (Previously presented) The component mounting apparatus according to claim 16, wherein component take-out positions of said first and second component supply tables are positioned along a straight line extending along the board transfer path.

18. (Currently Amended) A component mounting assembly ~~apparatus~~ including component mounting apparatuses positioned along a board transfer path, each of said component mounting apparatuses comprising:

~~a base structure;~~

first and second inverted U-shaped support frames positioned on ~~said a~~ base structure in a parallel relationship and on opposite sides of a board mounting position, wherein ~~a the~~ board transfer path extends through openings in said first and second inverted U-shaped support frames;

a first component supply table supported on a plurality of casters and removably secured between said first and second inverted U-shaped support frames on a first side of the board transfer path;

a second component supply table supported on a plurality of casters and removably secured between said first and second inverted U-shaped support frames on a second side of the board transfer path, wherein each of said first and second component supply tables accommodates a plurality of components, and wherein each of said first and second component supply tables can be moved in a perpendicular direction toward and away from the board transfer path;

a first mounting head section movable in first and second orthogonal directions for successively picking up a plurality of components at said first component supply table, thereafter moving to a board positioned at the board mounting position, and successively mounting the plurality of picked-up components onto the board ~~while moving in first and second directions which are perpendicular to each other~~; and

a second mounting head section movable in third and fourth orthogonal directions for successively picking up a plurality of components at said second component supply table, thereafter moving to the board positioned at the board mounting position, and successively mounting the plurality of picked-up components onto the board ~~while moving in third and fourth directions which are perpendicular to each other~~,

wherein said first and second mounting head sections are independently movable between the board and said first and second component supply tables, respectively, when the board is at the board mounting position,

wherein the first direction and the second direction define a plane that is parallel with the board transfer path, with the first direction being perpendicular to the board transfer path, and

wherein the third direction and the fourth direction define a plane that is parallel with the board transfer path, with the third direction being perpendicular to the board transfer path, the first and third directions being parallel with one another, and the second and fourth directions being parallel with one another; and

wherein all of the first component supply tables of said component mounting apparatuses are positioned on one side of the board transfer path, and all of the second component supply tables of said component mounting apparatuses are positioned on the other side of the board transfer path.

19. (Previously presented) The component mounting apparatus according to claim 15, wherein each of said first and second component supply tables is provided with component supply means comprised of parts cassettes provided with reels, and when one of said first and second component supply tables does not have components required for a mounting operation, it can be replaced with a new component supply table provided with the required components.

20. (Previously presented) The component mounting apparatus according to claim 15, wherein, when the components are mounted on a plurality of types of boards, one of said first and second component supply tables, having components required for one of the types of boards, is used for the one type of board while the other of said first and second component supply tables is provided with components required for one of the other types of boards.

21. (Previously presented) The component mounting apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said first component supply table is provided with a plurality of cassettes, and if components required for a mounting operation are not contained in the cassettes, said first component supply table can be replaced with a new component supply table having cassettes that are provided with the required components.

22. (Previously presented) The component mounting apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said first component supply table is provided with components that are to be mounted on a first type of board, and said second component supply table is provided with components that are to be mounted on a second type of board so that mounting operations can be conducted on the first and second types of boards.

23. (Currently Amended) A component mounting apparatus assembly including component mounting apparatuses positioned along a board transfer path, each of said component mounting apparatuses comprising:

~~a base structure;~~

first and second inverted U-shaped support frames positioned on ~~said~~ a base structure in a parallel relationship and on opposite sides of a board mounting position, wherein ~~a~~ the board transfer path extends through openings in said first and second inverted U-shaped support frames;

a first component supply table supported on a plurality of casters, said first component supply table being removably secured between said first and second inverted U-shaped support frames on a first side of the board transfer path;

a second component supply table supported on a plurality of casters, said second component supply table being removably secured between said first and second inverted U-shaped support frames on a second side of the board transfer path, wherein each of said first and second component supply tables accommodates a plurality of components, and wherein each of said first and second component supply tables can be moved in a perpendicular direction toward and away from the board transfer path;

a first mounting head section for successively picking up a plurality of components at said first component supply table, thereafter moving to a board positioned at the board mounting position, and successively mounting the plurality of picked-up components onto the board; and

a second mounting head section for successively picking up a plurality of components at said second component supply table, thereafter moving to the board positioned at the board mounting position, and successively mounting the plurality of picked-up components onto the board,

wherein each of said first and second mounting head sections is capable of moving in first and second directions which are perpendicular to each other and define a plane that is parallel with the board transfer path, with the first direction being perpendicular to the board transfer path; and

wherein all of the first component supply tables of said component mounting apparatuses are positioned on one side of the board transfer path, and all of the second component supply tables of said component mounting apparatuses are positioned on the other side of the board transfer path.

24. (Previously presented) The component mounting apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said first component supply table is provided with a plurality of cassettes.

25. (Previously presented) The component mounting apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said first component supply table is provided with components that are to be mounted on a first type of board, and said second component supply table is provided with components that are to be mounted on a second type of board which is different from the first type of board.